

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An autonomic composite display, comprising:
2 an n number of display positions in the autonomic composite display where n is at least
3 equal to two;
4 an m number of display devices for engaging the n number of display positions; and
5 a composite display controller for presenting an l number of presentations on the m
6 number of display devices wherein the controller automatically detects a change to m and
7 modifies the l number of presentations responsive to the change.

1 2. The autonomic composite display of claim 1 wherein the l number of
2 presentations are selected from a set of individual presentations and wherein the controller
3 presents a k number of instances of one or more individual presentations.

1 3. The autonomic composite display of claim 2 wherein the controller reduces k
2 for a particular presentation Px by 1 when m is reduced by 1.

1 4. The autonomic composite display of claim 2 wherein the controller increases k
2 for a particular presentation Px by 1 when m is increased by 1.

1 5. The autonomic composite display of claim 1 wherein the l number of
2 presentations are selected from a set of individual presentations, wherein the controller presents

3 a k number of instances of one or more individual presentations on the m number of display
4 devices and wherein m is reduced by 1 by removing an mth display device from the autonomic
5 composite display, the controller substituting a composite presentation on a selected one of the
6 m-1 display devices when detecting the change to m, with the composite presentation including
7 elements from a presentation previously presented on the mth display device and from a
8 presentation previously presented on the selected display device at the time that the change was
9 detected.

1 6. The autonomic composite display of claim 2 wherein the individual
2 presentations each have an associated priority and wherein m is reduced by 1 by removing a
3 display device having a particular presentation from the autonomic composite display, the
4 controller substituting the particular presentation for a displayed presentation on one of the
5 remaining m-1 display devices when the displayed presentation has a lower priority than the
6 particular presentation.

1 7. The autonomic composite display of claim 6 wherein the controller first
2 substitutes displayed presentations having k greater than 1.

1 8. The autonomic composite display of claim 2 wherein the individual
2 presentations each have an associated priority and wherein m is reduced by 1 by removing a
3 display device having a particular presentation from the autonomic composite display, the
4 controller substituting the particular presentation for a displayed presentation on one of the
5 remaining m-1 display devices when the displayed presentation has a priority equal to the

6 particular presentation and the displayed presentation has k greater than 1.

1 9. A method of autonomically adjusting presentations on each of a plurality of
2 electronic display devices making up a composite sign in response to a change in the number of
3 display devices used in the sign under control of a computing system, comprising the steps of:

4 a) monitoring for a change in m by the computing system, where m was the
5 number of active devices in the composite sign before the change and m' is the number of
6 active devices in the composite sign after the change; and

7 b) adjusting, by the computing system, one or more presentations exhibited on the
8 m' devices in response to the change.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the adjusting step b) uses arrangement
2 parameter values assigned to each presentation.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the arrangement parameter values include
2 priority values.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the arrangement parameter values include
2 order values.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the arrangement parameter values include
2 duplicate presentation number values.

1 14. An autonomic composite display, comprising:

2 means for arranging a first plurality of devices into the composite display, with the
3 devices exhibiting a second plurality of presentations;
4 means for discretely and independently exhibiting the second plurality of presentations;
5 and
6 means for controlling a third plurality of presentations on the exhibiting means
7 including automatic detection of a change to the second plurality and modification to the third
8 plurality responsive to the change.

1 15. A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

2 embodied therein for autonomically adjusting exhibited presentations on a composite sign, the
3 computer readable program code means in the computer usable medium comprising:

4 computer readable program code means for arranging a first plurality of presentations
5 into a plurality of devices of the composite display;

6 computer readable program code means for discretely and independently exhibiting a
7 second plurality of presentations; and

8 computer readable program code means for controlling the second plurality of
9 presentations on the exhibiting means including automatic detection of a change to the first
10 plurality and modifies the second plurality responsive to the change.